Docket No. 05058/16305

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re:

U.S. Application of:	Yoshikazu IKENOUE, Hideo KUMASHIRO, and Munehiro NAKATANI
For:	IMAGE FORMING APPARATUS AND COPY MANAGEMENT SYSTEM
U.S. Serial No.:	To Be Assigned
Filed:	Concurrently
	Prior Application:

U.S. Serial No.: 08/911,101

Confirmation No.: 3290

Filed: August 14, 1997

Group Art Unit: 2623

Examiner: Jon Chang

BOX PATENT APPLICATION
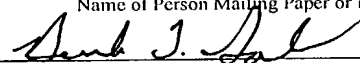
Assistant Director

for Patents

Washington, D.C. 20231

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Derrick T Gordon
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Signature

February 21, 2002
Date of Signature

Dear Sir:

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

Preliminary to the examination of the above-identified application, filed concurrently herewith, please amend this Application as follows:

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IN THE CLAIMS:

Please replace the previous version of the claims with the following clean version, wherein claims 1-41 have been cancelled and claims 42-67 have been added.

42. (New) An image processing apparatus comprising:

an input device for inputting image data;

an extractor for extracting additional data embedded in said image data input by the input device, said additional data including information in connection with a copyright of said inputted image data; and

a transmitter for transmitting the thus extracted additional data to a management unit each time image data is input by the input device.

43. (New) An image processing apparatus in accordance with claim 42, further comprising an additional data management section for generating new additional data and embedding said new additional data in said input image data from which additional data has already been extracted by said extractor.

44. (New) An image processing apparatus in accordance with claim 43, further comprising an output unit for outputting said input image data after said new additional data has been embedded therein by said additional data management section.

45. (New) An image processing apparatus in accordance with claim 44, further comprising a secret management section for selectively preventing the output of said input image data based on said extracted additional data.

46. (New) An image processing method comprising steps of:

inputting image data that includes additional data embedded therein;

extracting the additional data embedded in the input image data, wherein said additional data includes information in connection with a copyright of the image data; and

transmitting the thus extracted additional data to a management unit each time image data is inputted.

47. (New) An image processing method in accordance with claim 46, further comprising a step of generating new additional data and embedding said new

additional data in said input image data from which additional data has already been extracted during said step of extracting.

48.   (New) An image processing method in accordance with claim 47, further comprising a step of outputting said input image data after said new additional data has been embedded therein.

49.   (New) An image processing method in accordance with claim 47, further comprising a step of selectively preventing an output of said input image data based on said extracted additional data.

50.   (New) An image processing apparatus comprising:

an input device for inputting image data of a first document;

an embedding device for embedding additional data into at least a portion of said image data of the first document;

an output device for outputting a second document having an image similar in appearance to an image of the first document, wherein the image of the second document includes embedded additional data that is indiscernible to a human observer; and

a transmitter for transmitting additional data embedded by the embedding device to a management unit each time image data is input by the input device.

51.   (New) An image processing apparatus in accordance with claim 50, further comprising:

an extractor for extracting additional data embedded in said image data input by the input device, and

an additional data management section for generating new additional data based at least in part on the additional data extracted by the extractor,

wherein the additional data embedded by the embedding device is the new additional data generated by the additional data management section.

52.   (New) An image processing apparatus in accordance with claim 50, further comprising:

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a receiver for receiving additional data related to said image data input by the input device, and

an additional data management section for generating new additional data based at least in part on the additional data received by the receiver,

wherein the additional data embedded by the embedding device is the new additional data generated by the additional data management section.

53. (New) An image processing method comprising steps of:

inputting image data of a first document;

embedding additional data into a portion of the image data of the first document;

outputting a second document having an image similar in appearance to the image data of the first document, wherein the image of the second document includes the additional data and the additional data is indiscernible to a human observer; and

transmitting embedded additional data to a management unit each time image data is input.

54. (New) An image processing method in accordance with claim 53, further comprising steps of:

extracting additional data embedded in said image data input during the step of inputting, and

generating new additional data based at least in part on the additional data extracted during the step of extracting,

wherein the additional data embedded during the step of embedding is the new additional data generated during the step of generating.

55. (New) An image processing method in accordance with claim 53, further comprising steps of:

receiving additional data related to said image data input by the input device, and

generating new additional data based at least in part on the additional data received during the step of receiving,

wherein the additional data embedded during the step of embedding is the new additional data generated during the step of generating.

56.   (New) An additional data management apparatus connected to a plurality of image processing devices, said additional data management apparatus comprising:
   communication means for communicating with said plurality of image processing devices via a communication line to receive additional data that includes information that corresponds to a copyright of the image data; and
   a storage medium to store additional data received from said communication means.

57.   (New) An additional data management apparatus in accordance with claim 56, further comprising:
   a terminal for receiving an instruction for a total copy number; and
   a processor for controlling the storage medium to obtain the total copy number based on the additional data stored in the storage medium.

58.   (New) An additional data management apparatus in accordance with claim 56, further comprising:
   a terminal for receiving an instruction for confirmation of a leakage path; and
   a processor for controlling the storage medium to generate the leakage path based on the additional data stored in the storage medium.

59.   (New) An additional data management method in an additional data management apparatus connected to a plurality of image processing devices via a communication line, said additional data management method comprising steps of:
   receiving additional data that includes information that corresponds to a copyright of image data supplied from the plurality of image processing devices; and
   storing received additional data in a storage medium.

60.   (New) An additional data management method in accordance with claim 59, further comprising steps of:

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receiving an instruction for a total copy number; and

controlling the storage medium to obtain the total copy number based on the additional data stored in the storage medium.

61.   (New) An additional data management method in accordance with claim 59, further comprising steps of:

receiving an instruction for confirmation of a leakage path; and

controlling the storage medium to generate the leakage path based on the additional data stored in the storage medium.

62.   (New) An image processing apparatus comprising:

an input device for inputting image data;

an extractor for extracting additional data embedded in said input image data, said additional data including information corresponding to a copyright of said input image data;

a decision device for determining whether said additional data extracted by the extractor is imperfect; and

an initialization device for initializing additional data determined to be imperfect by the decision device.

63.   (New) An image processing apparatus in accordance with claim 62, wherein said additional data extracted by the extractor includes a plurality of sets of data, and wherein the decision device determines whether said additional data is imperfect based on a comparison of two or more of said sets of data.

64.   (New) An image processing apparatus in accordance with claim 62, wherein said additional data extracted by the extractor includes a plurality of sets of data each having corresponding blocks of data, and wherein the decision device determines whether said input image data is of a forged image based on a comparison of said blocks of data.

65.   (New) An image processing method comprising the steps of:

inputting image data;

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extracting additional data embedded in the thus inputted image data, said additional data including information corresponding to a copyright of the image data; determining whether the thus extracted additional data is imperfect; and initializing additional data thus determined to be imperfect.

66.   (New) An image processing method in accordance with claim 65, wherein said additional data extracted during the step of extracting includes a plurality of sets of data, and wherein the determination made during the step of determining whether said additional data is imperfect is based on a comparison of two or more of said sets of data.

67.   (New) An image processing method in accordance with claim 65, wherein said additional data extracted during the step of extracting includes a plurality of sets of data each having corresponding blocks of data, and wherein said method further comprises a step of determining whether said input image data is of a forged image based on a comparison of said blocks of data.

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REMARKS

The present preliminary amendment is being filed concurrently with the filing of a divisional application.
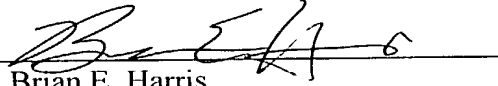
Claims 1-41 have been cancelled. New claims 42-67 have been added.

The filing fee for the divisional application was calculated based on the status of the claims after entry of this amendment. Accordingly, no additional fee based on the number or type of claims is incurred by this Amendment.

Any fee required by this document other than the issue fee, and not submitted herewith should be charged to Sidley Austin Brown & Wood LLP's Deposit Account No. 18-1260. Any refund should be credited to the same account.

Respectfully submitted,

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